

23 September 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. U.S., CANADA TRAINING SIMULATES DIRTY-BOMB SCENARIO: *"A simulated attempt to smuggle a dirty bomb into the United States using the railroad drew a massive cross-border response here Thursday, testing the ability of state, federal and provincial agencies to react to an act of terrorism."*

2. SAFRICA, JAPAN VYING TO HEAD UN ATOMIC WATCHDOG: *"South Africa and Japan have both set their sights on the top job at the International Atomic Energy Agency, when the current chief Mohamed ElBaradei steps down next year, according to diplomats."*

3. SRI INTERNATIONAL AWARDED DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY CONTRACT TO R&D BROAD-SPECTRUM ANTIBIOTICS: *"The new three-year, \$8.3 million contract will enable preclinical research in developing drugs against a broad range of bioterror agents including anthrax, plague and tularemia."*

4. DIPLOMATS: SYRIA PASSES 1ST TEST OF NUCLEAR PROBE: *"Partial results of samples from a Syrian site bombed by Israel show nothing to back up U.S. assertions that the target was a secret nuclear reactor, diplomats said Saturday."*

5. NAPO ANNOUNCES POSITIVE CLINICAL DATA INDICATING CROFELEMER, COULD EFFECTIVELY TREAT CHOLERA: *"Napo Pharmaceuticals today announces positive clinical data on the effectiveness of crofelemer from a study for CRO-ID in treating severely ill cholera patients in conjunction with an antibiotic and rehydration therapy."*

6. WMD PANEL TO CONSULT WITH ANTI-TERRORISM, COUNTER-PROLIFERATION EXPERTS IN RUSSIA: *"The group will also tour several facilities, including those that train the forces that guard Russia's nuclear facilities."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

U.S., CANADA TRAINING SIMULATES DIRTY-BOMB SCENARIO

By Martin J. Kidston

Helena Independent Record

September 19, 2008

"A simulated attempt to smuggle a dirty bomb into the United States using the railroad drew a massive cross-border response here Thursday, testing the ability of state, federal and provincial agencies to react to an act of terrorism.

Six months in the planning and at a cost of \$20,000, the exercise involved eight Canadian agencies, seven federal agencies, seven state agencies, and the Montana National Guard."

"A recent report by the Government Accountability Office described the northern border as the longest open border in the world. It noted the border's importance to international trade and detailed how 90 percent of Canada's population lives within 100 miles of the international boundary.

At the same time, however, the March report warned against the border's porous nature. Investigators found that the northern border offers "a multitude of opportunities for clandestine and undocumented crossings" by terrorists into the U.S.

Thursday's exercise took the report into account, simulating an attempted crossing by a group of terrorists planning to execute attacks on targets in the southern U.S."

The full article can be found at: http://www.helenair.com/articles/2008/09/19/state/top/50lo_080919_border.txt

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SAFRICA, JAPAN VYING TO HEAD UN ATOMIC WATCHDOG

Khaleej Times

September 21, 2008

"South Africa and Japan have both set their sights on the top job at the International Atomic Energy Agency, when the current chief Mohamed ElBaradei steps down next year, according to diplomats.

South Africa officially named its ambassador to the IAEA, Abdul Samad Minty, as its candidate for the influential position last week.

Tokyo has not yet done the same, but a number of diplomats accredited to the Vienna-based watchdog have said that Japan's current IAEA ambassador, Yukiya Amano, is in the running as well.

There has also been speculation that IAEA's current number two, Olli Heinonen, will also stand. And diplomats have suggested that Rogelio Pfirter, the Argentinian head of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the Hague, could be a possible candidate as well.

The IAEA's 35-member board, which convenes for its traditional September meeting next week, will not discuss ElBaradei's successor until a special one-day meeting on October 6."

The full article can be found at: http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/international/2008/September/international_September1903.xml§ion=international

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SRI INTERNATIONAL AWARDED DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY CONTRACT TO R&D BROAD-SPECTRUM ANTIBIOTICS

Medical News Today
September 23, 2008

"SRI International, an independent nonprofit research and development organization, announced it has been awarded a contract to develop broad-spectrum antibiotics from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), an agency within the United States Department of Defense (DoD). The new three-year, \$8.3 million contract will enable preclinical research in developing drugs against a broad range of bioterror agents including anthrax, plague and tularemia."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/122540.php>

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DIPLOMATS: SYRIA PASSES 1ST TEST OF NUCLEAR PROBE

By George Jahn
The Associated Press on Google News
September 21, 2008

"Partial results of samples from a Syrian site bombed by Israel show nothing to back up U.S. assertions that the target was a secret nuclear reactor, diplomats said Saturday.

The diplomats cautioned that the results from the International Atomic Energy Agency probe are preliminary because findings of more detailed environmental tests are still outstanding."

The full article can be found at: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ibbvKrJ2zpXsF5F9tM_rtfLwd8MAD93AM0600

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NAPO ANNOUNCES POSITIVE CLINICAL DATA INDICATING CROFELEMER, COULD EFFECTIVELY TREAT CHOLERA

MarketWatch
September 22, 2008

"Napo Pharmaceuticals today announces positive clinical data on the effectiveness of crofelemer from a study for CRO-ID in treating severely ill cholera patients in conjunction with an antibiotic and rehydration therapy.

A double-blind placebo-controlled study was conducted in one hundred (100) patients with confirmed severe cholera. Patients were randomized to placebo or 125 mg crofelemer every 6 hours or 250 mg crofelemer every 6 hours in a 1:2:2 randomization scheme. This single

center trial was conducted at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Dhaka, Bangladesh, popularly known as the "cholera hospital" for the state-of-the-art treatment of cholera patients."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/napo-announces-positive-clinical-data/story.aspx?guid={171E2B5D-7A0F-436B-BB67-30AA4A53296E}&dist=hppr>

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WMD PANEL TO CONSULT WITH ANTI-TERRORISM, COUNTER-PROLIFERATION EXPERTS IN RUSSIA

The Hill

September 22, 2008

"A congressionally-appointed commission studying ways to prevent terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction arrived in Moscow for meetings with counterterrorism and counter-proliferation experts. The group will also tour several facilities, including those that train the forces that guard Russia's nuclear facilities.

Members of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism will visit sites including the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research and the Security Assessment and Training Center."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=THEHILLLEG.story&STORY=/www/story/09-22-2008/0004889966&EDATE=MON+Sep+22+2008,+12:56+PM>

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Steve Tesko: Steve.Tesko@anser.org

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